



March 26, 2026

The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for H7127 – Public Safety Budget

Chairman DiPalma and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Liz Gledhill and I serve as the Director of the Center for Trauma-Informed Policing at Family Service of Rhode Island. The TIP Center is nationwide initiative designed to transform how law enforcement responds to children and families affected by trauma. In that role, I have the privilege of working with and supporting the GO TEAM® program- work that places me alongside our first responders and, more importantly, alongside Rhode Island families in moments of profound crisis. I am here today to urge your continued and increased investment in GO TEAM®, an essential response for children, families, and communities in the immediate aftermath of trauma.

Every day across Rhode Island, GO TEAM®'s trauma-trained liaisons are called to stand beside children and families on what is often one of the most difficult days of their lives. Embedded within police departments and responding alongside officers, GO TEAM® arrives in the immediate aftermath of crisis: supporting parents who have lost a child, assisting victims of violence, helping children exposed to trauma, and guiding families through the first overwhelming moments of loss and uncertainty.

What makes GO TEAM® so impactful is not just that they respond, but how they respond. Our team of 13 liaisons, supported by a project manager and led by program leadership, are all trained in Psychological First Aid. This evidence-informed approach allows them to stabilize individuals in acute distress, reduce immediate emotional harm, and connect families to the supports they need in a way that is compassionate, culturally responsive, and grounded in dignity. I would ask, if they are here today, that our GO TEAM® members stand or raise their hands- they are the reason this work is possible.

This model of police co-response is critical. By pairing trauma trained liaisons with law enforcement, we not only improve immediate outcomes for families- we also build trust in systems that can often feel inaccessible or intimidating. Families are more likely to accept support, engage in services, and begin the path toward healing when that first interaction is handled with care and expertise. At the same time, officers are able to focus on safety and investigative responsibilities, knowing that the emotional and psychological needs of those impacted are being addressed.



Family Service OF RHODE ISLAND

The need for this work is significant. Over the past year alone, GO TEAM® has served more than 1,000 Rhode Island families. Behind that number are children who have witnessed violence, parents navigating unimaginable loss, and communities working to recover from trauma. As highlighted in the 2025 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook, domestic violence incidents continue to rise, with children present in nearly a quarter of cases- underscoring the urgent need for immediate, trauma-informed intervention.

GO TEAM® has also demonstrated its value in responding to large-scale community trauma. Following recent mass shooting incidents affecting both Brown and Pawtucket, GO TEAM® staff were deployed immediately- present at reunification sites, supporting students, families, and community members in real time, and helping to stabilize and connect individuals to ongoing care.

Our work in Rhode Island is also gaining national attention. Through support from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Family Service of Rhode Island has expanded this model into the Trauma-Informed Policing (TIP) Center, using the success of GO TEAM® to help inform and train communities across the country. There is clear interest in bringing this model to other cities and states- and we are ready to support that growth. But just as importantly, we want to ensure that every community here in Rhode Island has access to this level of care.

First responders in seven communities already rely on GO TEAM® as a trusted partner. With additional funding, we can expand into six more communities, ensuring that more families receive immediate, trauma-informed support when they need it most. Early intervention not only reduces long-term harm, but also decreases reliance on emergency services and strengthens overall community resilience.

On behalf of Family Service of Rhode Island and the TIP Center, I respectfully urge your support for increased investment in GO TEAM®. This is a proven, effective model that is changing how we respond to trauma- and ensuring that no family has to face their worst moment alone.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to the well-being of Rhode Island's children and families.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liz Gledhill'.

Liz Gledhill, MPH

Director of the Center for Trauma Informed Policing

Family Service of Rhode Island

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